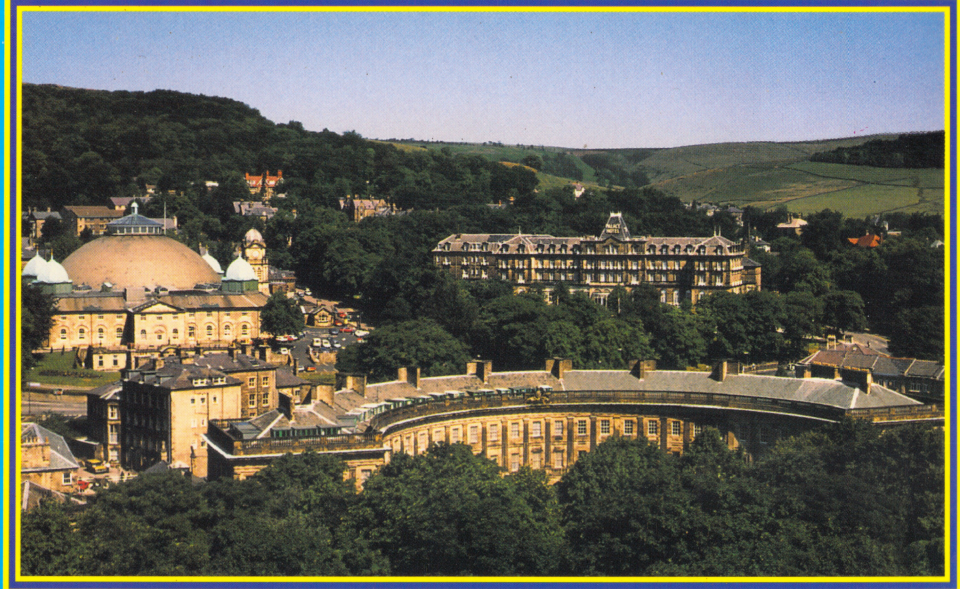
discovery tapes

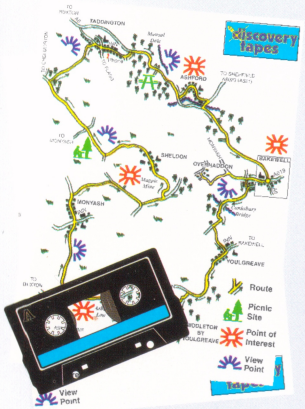
2 DRIVE & VIEW from BUXTON



EXPERIENCE SCENIC PEAKLAND DRIVES

THROUGH SIGHT AND SOUND

discovery tapes



Acknowledgements

Discovery Tapes Ltd. would like to thank all those who have helped to create and produce this series of 'Drive & View' tour guides. Their enthusiasm and support has provided much encouragement along the way.

Original Concept:	Steve Riley
Co-ordination:	Chris Riley
Photography:	Dennis Riley
Narration :	Ken Cook
Music & Production:	John Fiddy Music
Design & Artwork:	Ryecroft Data

Published by *Discovery Tapes Ltd.*

ISBN 1-901-73101-4

©Discovery Tapes Ltd. 1997

All rights reserved. No part of this publication and recording may be copied, stored in a retrieval system or used for public performance, broadcasting, hire or rental, without the written permission of the copyright owners. The publishers have taken every care to ensure accuracy and timeliness of information contained in this combination guide. However, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for subsequent alterations to the detail given. Inclement weather conditions may make the routes hazardous and the publisher cannot accept responsibility for incidents that may arise through following the routes and any persons using the information contained in this guide do so entirely at their own discretion.

STARTING OUT ON YOUR ROUTES

The time needed to complete these narrated tours is entirely up to you. Stop whenever you wish, visit wherever you want, have a picnic or take a stroll, but please remember to stop the tape whenever you park. Should you miss a direction or piece of information, simply rewind the tape to that point and continue on your journey.

BUXTON-TOWN HALL & MARKET CROSS.

The start-point for both of our drives into the beautiful countryside which surrounds Buxton, begins in the Car Park, situated next to the Town Hall in the Market Place.

But before we begin our journey ~ ***PLEASE*** take a few moments to prepare for your Discovery Tapes Drive.

1. **LOAD CASSETTE** & **CHECK TAPE** is positioned at the **START** of the **ROUTE** you wish to undertake.
2. **POSITION** your vehicle **OPPOSITE** the Town Hall, in the Market Place, Higher Buxton.
3. **START CASSETTE** & **LISTEN** to the **INTRODUCTION** to our journey.
4. **COMMENCE** your Discovery Tapes Drive ~ We hope that **YOU** Enjoy Your Day!

CAUTION!

Whilst enjoying the drives and scenery of the Peak District National Park ~ always expect the unexpected!

Each Discovery Tapes Drive covers 25-35 miles, much of the time spent on quiet country roads ~ but around the next bend may be a tractor, a herd of cows or a group of walkers . . .

. . . SO PLEASE TAKE CARE ~ DRIVE SAFELY

THE SPA TOWN OF BUXTON

Situated on the edge of the Peak District National Park at an altitude of 1000 feet above sea level, Buxton is the highest market town in England and one of the first to become 'snowed in' during winter storms, which can occur as late as April.

Famous as a spa town, since Roman times, Buxton's history and the classical design of many of its buildings owe much to the presence of its warm and thermal springs. The pure natural mineral water that emerges today, originally fell as rain some 5,000 years ago and filters to the surface through the ancient limestone rock. Visitors to the town can enjoy the water as it emerges from the St. Ann's Well, opposite the Tourist Information Centre at a constant temperature of 82°F

Many of the fine buildings, including the famous Crescent, were built in the 18th. century under the patronage of the Dukes of Devonshire. These now form the centre stage for this popular resort, which caters for a wide range of tourists throughout the year. The Pavilion Gardens, The Opera House, Museum & Art Gallery, Poole's Cavern and Grinlow Country Park ~ all provide the visitor with a variety of options for walks, entertainment and exploration. The town has excellent shopping facilities, market days on Tuesdays and Saturdays, together with annually held Wells Dressings, Music and Arts Festival and Antiques Fair.

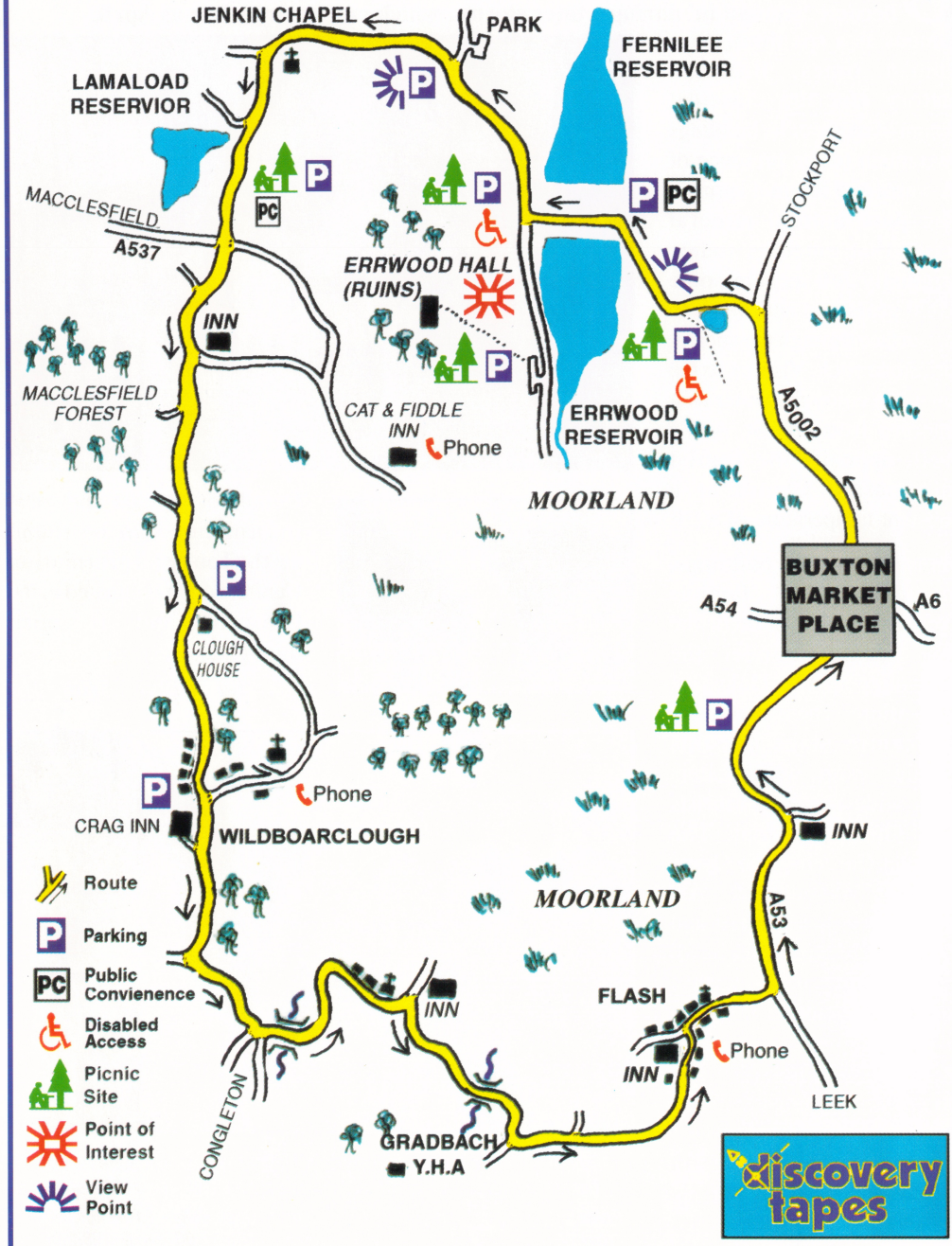
Details of general and local information can be found at theTourist Information Centre, which is situated in the Crescent and is open throughout the year.

Tel : 01298-25106

Museum & Art Gallery, Terrace Road ~ Open All Year except Bank Holidays, Tuesday-Friday 09.30-17.30, Saturdays 09.30-17.00. Tel: 01298-24658

Poole's Cavern & Country Park, Green Lane ~ Open Daily - Easter to October (not Wednesdays in April, May & October) 10.00-17.00. Tel: 01298-26978

BUXTON ~ ROUTE 1



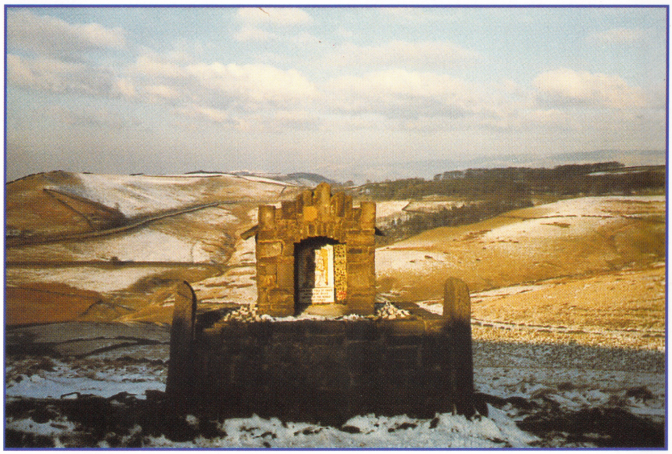
BUXTON to THE GOYT VALLEY

As we begin our descent of Terrace Road, immediately on our right is the town's Museum and Art Gallery, which remains open throughout the year. Continuing through the town, we pass by the Royal Devonshire Hospital, with its famous 156 feet diameter dome which was built in 1881. The Devonshire, built originally as a stable block, is surely one of the few hospitals open to outside visitors and selling its own guide book !

GOYT VALLEY

Having passed the roadside shrine, we shortly come to the Goyt's Lane car park followed by a steep, straight descent into the valley below. This steep hill, known as Bunsall Cob, was once part of the High Peak Railway and trains were hauled to the top by a static steam engine, with the nearby pool providing the necessary water. By 1857, the incline was over 1,000 yards long, descending 457 feet into the valley and trains continued to run until closure of the line in 1892.

The Goyt is a now a beautiful valley containing the two reservoirs of Fernilee and Errwood, completed in 1937 and 1968 respectively. However, at the turn of the century the valley was inhabited by a thriving community including farms, a large country house, school, paint mill, coal mine and gunpowder factory.



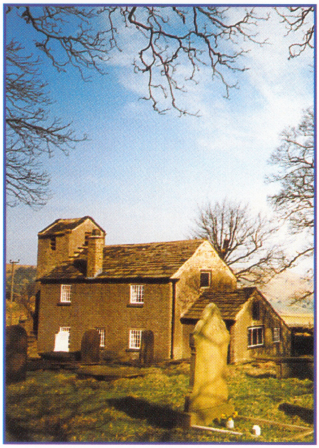
The whole valley is extremely popular with tourists and is subject to traffic constraints, during weekends and bank holidays from the start of May until the end of September. Wheelchair access to the moorland is available from Goyt's Lane car park, with access to the western bank of Errwood reservoir from the car park at The Street.

ERRWOOD HALL to WILDBOARCLOUGH

For all those who like to explore a little, a walk round the former estate of Errwood Hall is bound to give pleasure. Built in 1830, this abandoned haven is spectacular in June, when the thousands of azalias and rhododendrons are in full bloom. Eventually pulled down in 1934, there are now extensive walks and a Nature Trail around the remaining ruins of the house, the old driveways, shrine and the private burial ground, where members of the Grimshawe family were interred.

Leaving the Goyt behind we, once again, climb out onto the high moorlands, with expansive views over the Cheshire Plain. Along this remote road we drive by Jenkin Chapel which dates from 1733. More in the style of the local farmhouses than a place of worship, this small chapel is on the route of an ancient packhorse route or 'saltway'.

Lamaload reservoir, built in 1962, has a car park and picnic site which provide an ideal opportunity to stretch one's legs and see if you can locate the nearby roadside memorial stone with a most intriguing inscription. On the one side is inscribed, *'Here John Turner was cast away in a heavy snow storm in the night in or about the year 1755'.*, whilst on the other are the words *'The print of a woman's shoe was found by his side in the snow were he lay dead.'*



WILDBOARCLOUGH

Originally part of the Macclesfield Forest, where kings and princes hunted the deer and wild boar. The availability of water power brought a number of mills here in the late 18th. century, with the village being created to house the employees. From the small car park by Edinburgh Cottages, one can explore the village, view the church and take a look at *The Old Post Office*, now a private dwelling, which was formerly the local post office ~ such splendour for this remote corner of Cheshire

GRADBACH to BUXTON

GRADBACH

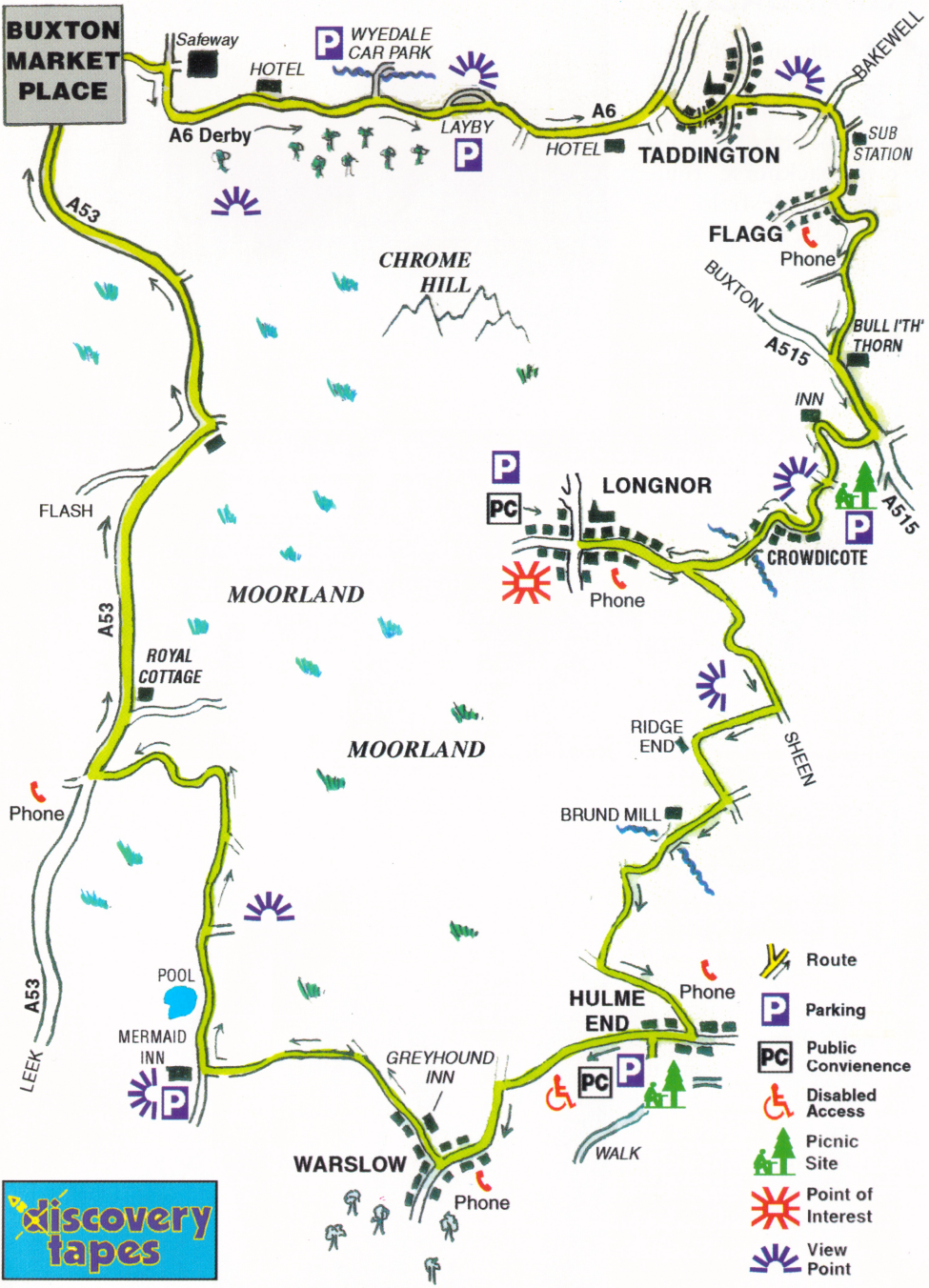
Gradbach Mill Youth Hostel, a former silk mill powered by the waters of the river Dane, has its own packhorse route towards Macclesfield, the centre for silk production in the area. For the more adventurous, there is a car park just before the mill, since Gradbach offers the opportunity for signposted walks to Lud Church and along the Dane Valley.

FLASH

Standing at 1,518 feet above sea level, Flash is the highest village in Britain. The term 'flash' for counterfeit money is said to have originated from this remote and blustery place. Upon leaving the village we join the A53 and wend our way, past the moorland farms dotted across the landscape, back towards the town of Buxton.

As we approach Buxton, there is turn-off to the right, just as the first houses are reached. Shortly after this turn there is a car park and caravan site,situated in the old Grin Quarry, from which one can walk to and climb up Solomon's Temple to enjoy a full view of Buxton and the surrounding hills. Built in the 1890's to give work to the unemployed, Solomon's Temple sits at an altitude of 1,440 feet, immediately above the woods of Buxton Country Park.

BUXTON ~ ROUTE 2



BUXTON to HURDLOW

TADDINGTON

For the first three miles we travel along Ashwood Dale, with the river Wye alongside and the railway line above our heads for much of the way. Past Topley Pike we rise once more onto the White Peak plateau before reaching the high village of Taddington, with its fabulous panoramic views of the Peak District countryside.

With a long main street of limestone cottages, this small community boasts some 17 miles of footpaths and a fine pub, *The Queens Arms,* where both walker and motorist alike can enjoy good beers, excellent food and a most warm welcome.

Over the hill from Taddington, we journey through a myriad of limestone-walled fields towards the village of Flagg, where point-to-point races are held each Easter Tuesday (snow permitting !). At Hurdlow, the car park is adjacent to the High Peak Trail for those who wish to take a stroll, whilst further on we can see Chrome Hill as we descend Crowdecote Bank and across the 'border' towards the small Staffordshire town of Longnor.

LONGNOR

At one time Longnor was an important market town, its Market Hall, having been built in 1873, is now the site of the Longnor Craft Centre. Longnor, once an important crossroads in the days of the turnpikes, ceased to develop through lack of a railway line, yet even today still manages to support several public houses.

Longnor Craft Centre - Open All Year 10.00 - 17.00

(Weekends only in Jan. & Feb.)

Tel: 01298 83587

LONGNOR to WARSLOW

On leaving Longnor our journey takes the right fork towards the village of Sheen. Along this high ridge road there are expansive views on either side. Over the small bridge at Brund Mill, we cross the river Manifold and travel along the narrow lanes towards the village of ...

HULME END

Home to the Manifold Valley Visitor Centre and formerly the terminus for the Leek & Manifold Light Railway. This narrow gauge railway from Waterhouses to Hulme End was only in operation from 1904 to 1934, before becoming one of the first disused railway lines in the country to be converted for recreational use, in 1937. Popular with walkers and cyclists alike, the old track travels along this most beautiful valley, passing through the old tunnel and on towards Wetton Mill, some four miles away, where refreshments can be taken at the farm café.

WARSLOW

Situated just on the edge of the bleak Staffordshire moorlands is Warslow, a former estate village of the Harpur-Crewe family.

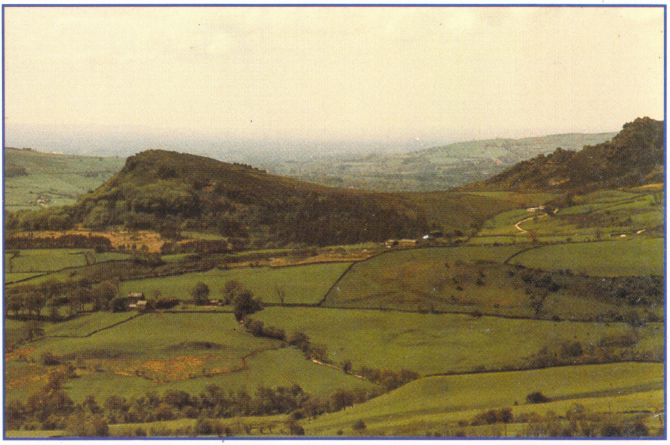
A key village in the area, through the presence of a modern secondary school which serves much of the surrounding community.

Warslow has a good village pub, *The Greyhound Inn,* a lovely churchyard and even a set of cast-iron stocks which remain from years gone by.

MERMAID INN to BUXTON

THE ROACHES

Following the road across the heather-covered moorland, we arrive at a junction opposite the isolated *Mermaid Inn,* where, from the car park, one has excellent views towards the outlying crops of gritstone rock, known as the Roaches. Although rarely seen, wallabies have lived and bred in the wild, around this area, since escaping from the nearby Swythamley Hall during the 1940's.



MOORLAND FARM LIFE

Inclement weather conditions often prevail during the long winter months and life for the moorland hill farmers has never been an easy lot. Cattle and sheep were walked across the moors to local markets at Leek, Flash, Warslow and Longnor, by the hardworking farmers whose weekly toil amounted to six 14 hour days plus 10 hours on a Sunday - all in the days before electricity, double glazing or central heating !

POOLE'S CAVERN

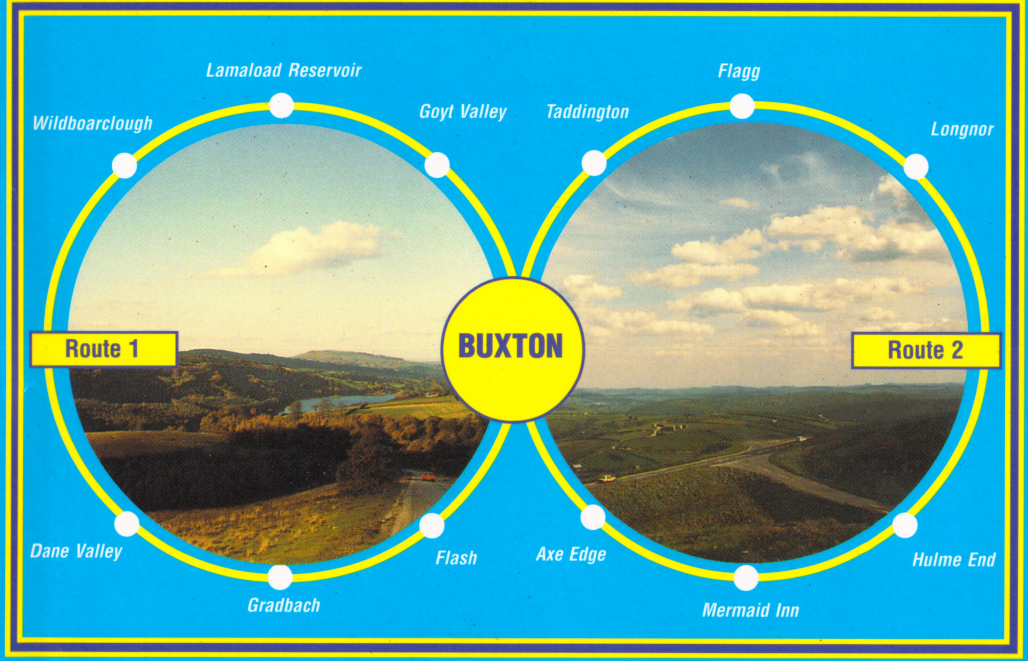
Situated on Green Lane, approximately a mile from the town centre are Poole's Cavern and the Buxton Country Park. The cavern, a show cave since 1853, has been naturally formed by the eroding waters in the limestone hillside. Guided journeys through this underground wonderland last some 45 minutes and disabled visitors are welcomed. Facilities include a visitor centre, toilets, refreshments and a large car park and picnic area from which one can explore the Nature Trail through the 100 acres of Grinlow Woods to the summit where Solomon's Temple is situated.

Poole's Cavern - Open Daily (March to End October) - 10.00-17.00 Tel : 01298 26978

discovery tapes

ENJOYING BEAUTIFUL BRITAIN!

ENJOY TWO SCENIC DRIVES STARTING AND FINISHING FROM THE HISTORICAL DERBYSHIRE TOWN OF BUXTON



Self-Guided Tours through the Peak District

Each pack contains two narrated tours on cassette, together with a full-colour information guide and route maps.

Visit places of interest and beauty, enjoy short walks in the countryside and explore the Peak District villages with Discovery Tapes ~ the new dimension for leisure motoring and sight-seeing.

Other Titles Available Include

■ EYAM ■ BAKEWELL ■ MATLOCK ■ CASTLETON ■ ASHBOURNE

ISBN 1-901-73101-4

9 781901 731019

Published by: *Discovery Tapes Ltd.*

Printed in Great Britain by: *Ryecroft Data*